

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 05686 201250Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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S E C R E T ATHENS 5686

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS OTHER ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MAR, MASS, GR, TU
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION: GOG ACCEPTS U.S.- PROPOSED
PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) ATHENS 5670, B) ATHENS 5636, C) ATHENS 5614, D) STATE
138322

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TELEPHONED ME EARLY THIS AFTERNOON TO GIVE ME THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR PORPOSED PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING THE U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS CALLING FROM THE CABINET ROOM WHERE HE HAD BEEN HAVING A DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND OTHER SENIOR CABINET MINISTERS.
2. BITSIOS SAID THAT CARAMANLIS AND THE CABINET HAVE NOW HAD A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER AND THE GOG HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPEATED THE GOG'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH I HAD MADE TO HIM AND WHICH IS SUMMARIZED IN PARAGRAPH 3, REF C. BITSIOS SAID THE GOG WAS AGREEABLE TO OUR SMALL TEAM OF EXPERTS RETURNING TO ATHENS AS SOON

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AS POSSIBLE TO HAVE WHAT HE HOPED WOULD B A "SHORT ROUND" TO COM-
PLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEN THERE WOULD BE A SHORT RECESS TO REVIEW
THE RESULTS OF THE ROUND, FOLLOWING WHICH--"IN THE LAST DAYS OF
JULY," HE SAID--THE GOG WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE ITS NEGOTIATING
TEAM MEET WITH THE U.S. TEAM AND TO HAVE THE HEADS OF THE TWO NEO-
TIATING DELEGATIONS INITIAL THE DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS THAT HAD
BEEN NEGOTIATED. THE GOG WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZAE A

COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS AT THAT TIME, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN INITIALED BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AD REFERENDUM TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR FINAL APPROVAL. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE VERY BRIEF AND HE SAID THEY WOULD BE SUBMITTING A PROPOSED TEXT TO US FOR OUR CONSIDERATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID IT WAS ALSO THE GOG'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD DECIDE JOINTLY WHEN THE FINAL FULL POWERS' SIGNING BY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE. BITSIOS CONCLUDED BY ASKING WHETHER HIS RESPONSE CONFORMED TO THE REQUEST MADE BY WASHINGTON AND WHEN I THOUGHT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESUME OUR NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EXPERTS LEVEL.

3. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I DID INDEED BELIEVE THAT THE GOG'S RESPONSE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON AND SAID WE WOULD DO OUR UTMOST TO GET OUR EXPERTS TO ATHENS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESUME AND COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS. I SAID I THOUGHT WE COULD PERHAPS GET THEM HERE IN TIME FOR THE MEETINGS TO BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22. HE SAID THAT WOULD BE FINE AND FOR ME TO WORK OUT THE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS WITH CHRYSOSPATIS.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE GOG'S RESPONSE MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN REF D, AND THEIR READINESS TO AGREE NOT ONLY TO INITIAL AND ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO TO FIX A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME OF THE "LAST DAYS OF JULY" FOR THIS INITIALLING AND ANNOUNCEMENT IS, I BELIEVE, AN ADDITIONAL ENCOURAGING SIGN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM US PROMPTLY, WITH AN ADVANCE
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INDICATION TELEPHONICALLY, IF POSSIBLE, WHETHER THE SMALL TEAM OF WASHINGTON-BASED EXPERTS DESIGNATED TO ASSIST US WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAN ARRIVE IN ATHENS FOR MEETINGS TO COMMENCE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22.
KUBISCH

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NNN

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